

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /067 W

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P 161207Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3017

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP,US

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF : MADRID 6369

1. SINCE REFTEL THE SPANISH PRESS HAS TAKEN A RATHER LOW-KEY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. TALKING ABOUT THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE POSITIONS, ANALYZING THE POSSIBILITIES OF PROROGATION AFTER SEPTEMBER 26, AND GENERALLY TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE STANCE. THE MEDIA HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A CORTINA/KISSINGER MEETING AFTER THIS NEGOTIATING ROUND EITHER TO RESOLVE REMAINING ISSUES OR TO KEEEP THINGS MOVING. A PREVALENT THEME HAS BEEN THAT OF AMERICAN MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE SPANISH POSITION. ONE STORY DID SUGGEST THAT IF RENEWAL COULD NOT BE REACHED BEFORE THE 26TH*" - "NEW AGREEMENT" MIGHT REQUIRE A HIGHER QUID BUT THIS STORY WAS COUCHED IN SPECULATIVE RATHER THAN AUTHORITATIVE TONES.

2. ONE ABERRANT ARTICLE (PYRESA, FROM NEW YORK ON THE 13TH), WAS APPARENTLY SUPPRESSED IN THAT NEWS SERVICE'S PARENT MADRID DAILY, BUT RUN IN A PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER. IT PREDICTED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD END WITHOUT
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AGREEMENT AND WITHOUT PROROGATION, BASED ON SOURCES CLOSE

TO THE CONVERSATIONS (APPARENTLY MEANING ROVIRA). IT LEFT
OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A LAST-MINUTE AGREEMENT,BUT SAID
THAT THE DIFFERENCES WERE SO GREAT, AND THE ADVANCES
SO LITTLE, THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY, EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS
GOODWILL ON BOTH SIDES. THE DIALOGUE WOULD CONTINUE
DURING THE YEAR OF GRACE AND SO NO QTE RUPTURE UNQTE,
BUT A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE NEEDED FOR A NEW SITUATION,
REQUIRING THE UNITED STATES TO QTE BREAK THE CONSTITUTIONAL
ICE UNQTE. DURING THE YEAR OF DISMANTLING OF THE BASES,
THE PARTIES COULD ARRIVE AT A NEW AGREEMENT TO SAVE THE
MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.
ASSUMING NO AGREEMENT BEFORE THE 26TH, THE PROCESS OF
DISMANTLING THE QTE 4 BASES, THE 7 RADAR INSTALLATIONS AND
THE 23 SECONDARY INSTALLATIONS UNQTE WOULD BEGIN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID06433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750320-0673
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750945/aaaabnjk.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 6369
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006